This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, the method comprising:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information and a lexicon, the lexicon comprising less ambiguous information components that have been previously processed by a search engine as search queries, to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into at least two corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components;

providing the at least two sequences of less ambiguous information, each of the sequences effectively being joined by a logical "OR" operation request, as an input to ~~a~~ the search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the mapping information is based on the configuration of a standard telephone keypad.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the ambiguous information components comprise

numbers and the less ambiguous information components comprise letters.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein each of the ambiguous information components comprise a single press of a key and the less ambiguous information comprises letters that correspond to the key.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ambiguous information components comprise phonemes.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein the less ambiguous information components comprise alphanumeric information.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the ambiguous information components comprise visual information.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~8~~, wherein the ~~lexicon~~ act of using further comprises using ~~is~~ a dictionary to help convert the sequence of ambiguous information components into one or more corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, the method comprising:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information to translate the sequence of ambiguous information components into a plurality of corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components;

determining a subset of the plurality of sequences of less ambiguous information components by comparing the plurality of sequences of less ambiguous information components with terms used in past search queries, stored in a search query log, that previously have been processed by the search engine;

providing the subset of sequences of less ambiguous information components as an input to a search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14 ~~12~~, wherein the act of determining comprises using statistical information about the co-occurrence of the less ambiguous information components within the sequence.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, comprising:

receiving a sequence of information components from a user, each information component corresponding to a key press;

obtaining mapping information that maps each of the key press information components to a plurality of other information components, each corresponding to the same key press;

using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to determine, from the sequence of key press information components, other sequences of information components by converting each key press information component to each of the other information components that correspond to the key press component, wherein the lexicon is a list of other sequences of information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

providing one or more of the received sequence and the other sequences as a search query input to the ~~a~~ search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user,

wherein the search results include references to Web page documents.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the mapping information is based on the configuration of a standard telephone keypad.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the received information components comprise numbers and the other information components comprise letters.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein both the received and other information components comprise letters.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein the act of providing comprises providing at least two sequences to the search engine using a logical "OR" operations.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of providing search results to a user in response to an ambiguous search query, comprising:

receiving at least two number words constituting a number phrase;

converting ~~translating~~ each number word into one or more letter words, based on mapping information, in combination with a lexicon , to generate a plurality of letter phrases, each of the letter phrases corresponding to the number phrase, wherein the lexicon is a list of letter phrases that previously have been processed by the search engine as search queries;

forming a search query to a search engine wherein the search query includes at least one of the letter phrases;

obtaining search results from the search engine in response to the search query; and

providing the search results to a user,

wherein the search results include references to Web page documents.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the providing step comprises providing at least two of the letter phrases, each of the letter phrases being effectively joined by a logical "OR" operation request, as a search query to a search engine

Claim 28 (original): The method of claim 26, wherein the mapping information is based on a standard telephone keypad.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing one or more instructions for providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, the instructions comprising:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into at least two corresponding

sequences of less ambiguous information components, wherein the lexicon is a list of sequences of less ambiguous information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

providing the at least two sequences of less ambiguous information, each of the sequences effectively being joined by a logical "OR" operation request, as an input to the ~~a~~ search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user.

Claim 31 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, comprising:

at least one memory having program instructions; and

at least one processor configured to execute the program instructions to perform the operations of:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into at least two corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components, wherein the lexicon is a list of sequences of less ambiguous information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

providing the at least two sequences of less ambiguous information, each of the sequences effectively

being joined by a logical "OR" operation request, as an input to the ~~a~~ search engine;

obtaining search results from the search engine; and

presenting the search results to the user.

Claim 32 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, comprising:

means for receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user;

means for obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

means for using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into at least two corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components ,wherein the lexicon is a list of sequences of less ambiguous information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

means for providing the at least two sequences of less ambiguous information, each of the sequences effectively being joined by a logical "OR" operation request, as an input to the ~~a~~ search engine;

means for obtaining search results from the search engine; and

means for presenting the search results to the user.

(

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the act of using the mapping information and the lexicon to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into one or more corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components ~~uses~~ includes using the mapping information to directly translate the sequence of ambiguous information components into one or more corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the ambiguous information components are more ambiguous than the less ambiguous information components due to a limited capability of a user input device.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising looking up search results using an index including entries, at least one entry including a sequence of less ambiguous information components mapped to a set of one or more items.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the search results provided to the user have been ranked such that search results corresponding to documents that include an exact match of at least one of the letter phrases are provided higher than search results corresponding to documents that do not include an exact match of any of the letter phrases.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the search results exclude search results

corresponding to documents that do not include an exact match of any of the letter phrases.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A method of providing search results in response to an ambiguous search query, the ambiguous search query including a sequence of ambiguous information components, the method comprising:

receiving a sequence of ambiguous information components from a user associated with a language;

obtaining mapping information that maps the ambiguous information components to less ambiguous information components;

using the mapping information, in combination with a lexicon, to convert ~~translate~~ the sequence of ambiguous information components into one or more corresponding sequences of less ambiguous information components, wherein the lexicon is a list of sequences of less ambiguous information components that previously have been processed by a search engine as search queries;

providing one or more of the sequences of less ambiguous information as an input to a search engine;

obtaining search results from a ~~the~~ search engine;

reordering the obtained search results using the language of the user; and

presenting the reordered search results to the user, wherein the search results include references to Web page documents.